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Cryophoenix

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Witcher TTRPG Homebrew Collection

"We were freezing to death in the Dragon Mountains when we saw it. A beautiful, glowing blue bird, perched on the cliffs. We thought its magic might offer warmth. But when it spread its wings, the temperature plummeted, the wind turned to razor-sharp ice, and my brother was frozen solid before he could even draw his sword." — Sole survivor of a Caingorn hunting expedition

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Danger Ratings	
Easy, Medium, or Hard?	Hard
Simple, Complex, or Difficult?	Difficult
Intelligence	
Intelligence Level	Sapient (Highly Intelligent, though lacking humanoid speech)
Statistics	
INT	6
REF	8
DEX	8
BODY	12
SPD	8

Attacks

EMP	4
CRA	2
WILL	10
Derived Statistics	
STUN	11
RUN	24
LEAP	4
STA	55
ENC	120
REC	11
HP	110
Information	
Height	3.5m (Approx. 11'5")
Weight	1,200kg (2,640 lbs)
Environment	The Far North, glaciers, and the absolute highest, snow-blind mountain peaks
Organization	Solitary or Pairs
Skill Bases	
Awareness	+20
Wilderness Survival	+15
Brawling	+14
Dodge/Escap	+16
Athletics	+14
Stealth	+12
Physique	+17
Endurance	+16
Courage	+19

Intimidation	+16
Resist Magic	+18
Combat Factors	
Armor	14
Lore	
Bounty	1,200 Crowns

Attack Name	WA	ATK Type	DMG	Reliability	Effect / Range
Razor Beak	+1	Piercing	6d6	15	Armor Piercing / 1m
Claw Slash	+1	Slashing	4d6	15	Bleed (50%) / 1m
Wing Buffet	+1	Bludgeoning	3d6	10	Freeze (50%), Stagger (25%) / 2m

Abilities

- **Arctic Slipstream (Flight):** The Cryophoenix can take its move action to fly up to 10m. Because its wings constantly generate a localized, freezing gale, any humanoid attempting to make a melee or thrown weapon attack against the beast while it is airborne suffers a -2 penalty to their attack roll. *(Standard Flight Rules: It must use the Reposition action to defend. If it takes more than 10 points of damage in a single strike or is Stunned, it falls and must make a DC 18 Athletics check to avoid fall damage).*
- **Shattering Plumes:** As a standard action, the Cryophoenix violently snaps its wings, launching a volley of razor-sharp, super-cooled ice feathers. It rolls a ranged attack (Base 14) against up to two different targets within a 10m range. Each feather acts as a physical projectile, dealing 4d6 Slashing damage with a 25% chance to inflict the *Bleed* condition.
- **Aura of the Hoarfrost:** As a full action, the beast super-cools the ambient

moisture around it. For the next 3 rounds, a 5-meter aura of localized, blinding blizzard surrounds the Cryophoenix. Any enemy starting their turn inside this aura takes 2d6 unmitigated frost damage and has their SPD temporarily reduced by 2 until they leave the area. Furthermore, the dense snow grants the Cryophoenix partial concealment, imposing a -2 penalty to incoming ranged attacks.

- **Avalanche Dive:** If the Cryophoenix is already in the air, it can spend its entire turn to fold its wings and plummet into the ground, turning its body into a living meteor of ice. It targets a space within 20m. Upon impact, it creates a massive, shattering shockwave. Every target within 6 meters of the impact zone must pass a DC 17 Dodge/Escape check or take 5d6 Bludgeoning/Piercing damage and immediately suffer the *Knockdown* condition. The beast takes no fall damage from executing this maneuver.
- **The Permafrost Tomb (Rebirth):** When reduced to 0 HP, the creature does not simply die or immediately explode. Instead, it instantly flash-freezes the air around it, rapidly encasing itself in a massive, jagged block of True Ice. Any creature within 3m must immediately pass a DC 16 Dodge/Escape check or become physically trapped inside the expanding ice wall (Suffering the *Freeze* condition indefinitely until the ice is broken). After 2 full combat rounds, the tomb shatters explosively of its own accord, dealing 4d6 Slashing damage to anyone within a 5m radius and leaving behind a pristine Cryophoenix Egg in the snow.

Ecology & Lore

Commoner Superstition (Streetwise DC 16)

Every peasant knows the tales of the fiery Phoenix, but only the rugged trappers of the Far North whisper of the Winter Bird. They say that when a powerful mage of the Water element dies in the frozen wastes, their soul refuses to pass on, instead crystallizing into a massive, pale-blue bird made of unmelting ice. They say the beast doesn't even need to touch you; it just beats its wings and your blood freezes in your veins.

Academic Knowledge (Education/Monster Lore DC 18)

The Cryophoenix is one of the rarest Draconids on the Continent. It is an evolutionary offshoot of the traditional Phoenix, having entirely adapted to the

desolate, freezing peaks of the Dragon Mountains. Like their fiery cousins, they are highly sapient and entirely capable of being reasoned with, though they lack the physical anatomy for humanoid speech. Because of their rarity, nobles will pay absolutely staggering amounts of coin for a living egg or an intact plumage of their frost-bitten feathers.

Witcher Knowledge (Witcher Training DC 20)

If you encounter a Cryophoenix, sheath your sword and attempt to negotiate first. They only attack when their territory or their young are threatened. If diplomacy fails, prepare for a grueling fight. Attempting to freeze the creature with Northern Wind bombs is useless. You must rely on Dimeritium to strip away its magical breath attacks, and heavy, continuous applications of the Igni sign.

When you strike the killing blow, do not stand over the corpse to admire your work. The resulting magical backlash will drop the ambient temperature to absolute zero, shattering your armor and freezing you solid in a localized glacier. Dive away immediately.

Harvestable Parts & Alchemy

- **Cryophoenix Feathers (1d6 Feathers):** Breathtaking, pale-blue feathers that literally radiate a chill. Highly prized by nobles and master tailors.
- **Permafrost Crystals (2d6 Handfuls):** Acts as a highly potent magical component.
- **Essence of Water (1d6 Vials):** Extracted from the beast's intensely magical bloodstream.
- **Infused Dust (1d6 Handfuls):** Standard magical crafting component.
- **Fifth Essence (1d6 Vials):** Standard magical crafting component.
- **Cryophoenix Egg (x1):** Found perfectly preserved in the epicenter of the beast's *The Permafrost Tomb* explosion. Retains the memories of its past life.

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